Answering of Questions.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sir, the Hon'ble Member for Medicine pointed out that they always answered the questions fully. To-day I want to point out to you, I do not want to put any question, how he has answered a question. It is a main question, and will you kindly see if there is any proper answer to this question, Sir?

President.—Was the question put by you?

Mr. A. B. Salem.— Yes, Sir. My question is "how many deaths have occured in the surgical wards during the period covered by the question". It has not been answered at all. It is a plain question. There must be some answer at least. No answer at all is given. It is the first question of to-day. The answer is 'there is no scientific classifcations as 'major operation." That is the way in which we are given answers. If there are no deaths, he should have said that there have been no deaths.

President.—The Member's attention was concentrated upon the words 'major operation.'

Mr. A. B. Salem.—He was very loud that he was fully answering the questions.

President.—I can understand major operation and minor operation. But in that discussion did you forget to note the number of deaths? That has no reference to major or minor operations.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The remarks just now made by the Hon'ble Member for Jews are that we are loath to give replies. I want only to call his attention to a similar question which was asked, I believe in the last session, when he asked how many surgical operations there were of abdominal sections and other major operations six months before and six months after Dr. Poduval went on leave. At that time I gave him the information, and went out of my way perhaps to do so, by surmising that the Member wanted cases in which chloroform was administered. I have given the answer fully then. But this time he has asked the question again. How many operations have been done 3 months before and 3 months after Dr. Poduval went on leave? What earthly use is there, I would like to know, except to make odious comparisons?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—On a point of order. We are dealing with the Education Department. We have not much time for these things.

President.—I do not know whether we are travelling beyond the answer.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—It is question time. There is the observation made,.....

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President.—The only point is, is it your contention that the question could not have been answered ?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I could have answered that. But, Sir, the borderland between a desire to get information, which is legitimate, and the desire to cross-examine official Members, which is very illegitimate, is so subtle and vague that, care should be exercised in asking questions, if not we will give you the pound of flesh and nothing more. (*Hear, hear.*)

Dr. A. G. Menon.— Our very complaint is that. You support us. We are thankful to you.

Here I would like to bring to your notice that to-day there are about 29 questions answered. In these ten are put by one Member. He has not breathing time to put the supplementary questions. It is only a request that these questions may be so arranged that each Member must be allowed not more than a limited number of questions.

President.—Who is the Member ?

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Mr. K. J. Antony.

President.—He never put in any complaint.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—If I am putting certain questions and I am given the whole day for the questions, I would feel the difficulty. That is the general difficulty.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.— A word of explanation, Sir.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I do not want any explanation. In future these questions may be so arranged.

President.—These are in connection with one particular subject, so that, if you separate these questions, the purpose of the questions will not be served.

VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

9. Demand No. XVIII—Education (contd.)

Rs. 12,59,044.

Motion No. 5 (*contd.*)

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.— *To reduce the allotment of Rs. 31,766 for Direction and Inspection by Rs. 5,000.*

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I was trying to explain certain criticisms regarding the policy underlying the recognition of Secondary Schools.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—It was not a reply.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—Yes.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Other Members wanted to speak. There was only an explanation. It was not by way of a reply.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—I wanted to reply to those who had already spoken on the subject so that the speech

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